



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 90**

January Session, 2015

Substitute Senate Bill No. 532

*Senate, March 17, 2015*

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs reported through SEN. FLEXER of the 29th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

**AN ACT WAIVING COURSE ENROLLMENT FEES AT CHARTER OAK STATE COLLEGE FOR MEMBERS OF THE CONNECTICUT NATIONAL GUARD.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 10a-143 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2015*):

3 (a) The Board of Regents for Higher Education, in concert with the  
4 state's institutions of higher education, shall study, develop and  
5 coordinate the implementation of new methods of awarding  
6 undergraduate degrees and college credits including but not limited  
7 to: (1) External degrees awarded on the basis of acceptable  
8 performance in an educational field whether or not the necessary  
9 education was obtained by the candidate at an institution of higher  
10 education, and (2) examinations and methods other than classroom  
11 instruction for determining qualifications. On or before July 1, 1993,  
12 each constituent unit of the state system of higher education shall  
13 establish procedures to award college credits pursuant to this

14 subsection and subsection (e) of this section.

15 (b) The Board of Regents for Higher Education shall promulgate  
16 regulations to authorize accredited institutions of higher education to  
17 award degrees by such new procedures.

18 (c) Charter Oak State College shall be an independent constituent  
19 unit of the state system of higher education with authority to grant  
20 undergraduate and graduate credits and degrees on the basis of (1)  
21 examinations, (2) courses offered by Charter Oak State College, and (3)  
22 other forms of evaluation and validation of learning including transfer  
23 of credit. Said college is authorized to use the term "Charter Oak State  
24 College" on diplomas and other documents and utterances to affirm  
25 the status of the college as a degree-granting institution of higher  
26 education. It shall be the responsibility of the college to serve the  
27 interest of all Connecticut residents by providing open access to  
28 academic credentials which are based on a consensus of professional  
29 judgment. The purpose of such credentials shall be to identify and give  
30 recognition to higher learning acquired by individuals through  
31 independent study, work experience and programs of noncollegiate  
32 educational activity.

33 (d) (1) The Board of Regents for Higher Education shall develop and  
34 implement programs at Charter Oak State College to improve  
35 opportunities in higher education through alternative modes of  
36 service, including, but not limited to, guidance and information  
37 services, registration and validation services, examination and degree-  
38 granting services, technological delivery systems, and projects of  
39 research and development. The board may appoint a chief academic  
40 and administrative officer and a professional academic staff of Charter  
41 Oak State College. The board may appoint and remove executive staff  
42 responsible for the operation of Charter Oak State College. The board  
43 may determine the size of the academic staff and the duties, terms, and  
44 conditions of employment of said director and staff. The board shall  
45 establish through appointments on an adjunct basis a faculty of  
46 consulting examiners at Charter Oak State College to make

47 recommendations as to requirements and standards of the college's  
48 programs and to make recommendations for the award of academic  
49 undergraduate and graduate credits and degrees. Persons serving as  
50 members of the faculty of consulting examiners shall have appropriate  
51 professional qualifications as determined by the board and may hold  
52 professional appointments in active status at accredited institutions of  
53 postsecondary or higher learning. Within the limit of appropriations,  
54 the board shall fix the compensation of persons serving with adjunct  
55 appointment as members of the faculty of consulting examiners. The  
56 board shall confer such undergraduate and graduate certificates and  
57 degrees as are appropriate to programs of postsecondary and higher  
58 learning at Charter Oak State College and in accordance with the  
59 recommendations of the board's faculty of consulting examiners on the  
60 basis of (A) examinations, (B) courses offered by Charter Oak State  
61 College, and (C) other forms of validation and evaluation of learning,  
62 including transfer of credit. The board shall assist public institutions of  
63 higher education in establishing and implementing procedures to  
64 award college credits pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

65 (2) The Board of Regents for Higher Education shall develop a  
66 mission statement for Charter Oak State College which shall include,  
67 but not be limited to, the following elements: (A) The educational  
68 needs of, and constituencies served by said college; (B) the degrees  
69 offered by said college; and (C) the role and scope of the programs  
70 offered by said college.

71 (e) The board shall fix fees for examinations and for such other  
72 purposes as the board deems necessary on behalf of Charter Oak State  
73 College and may make refunds and other disposition of same as  
74 provided by law or regulation. The board may make contracts, leases  
75 or other agreements in connection with its responsibilities.

76 (f) The Board of Regents for Higher Education shall establish and  
77 administer a fund to be known as the Board of Regents for Higher  
78 Education for Charter Oak State College Operating Fund, which shall  
79 be a separate account within the General Fund. The operating fund

80 shall be used for the expenses of Charter Oak State College, including  
81 personnel expenses and equipment, and for the support of college  
82 activities pursuant to this section, including validation and evaluation  
83 of learning, guidance and public information services, projects of  
84 research and development for the improvement of learning materials  
85 and the technology of delivery systems, and for the purchase of such  
86 services, materials and equipment as are required for use in connection  
87 with said activities. Appropriations from general revenues of the state,  
88 all fees and proceeds of the board's activities on behalf of Charter Oak  
89 State College, including grants and donations, not required by statute  
90 or regulation to be deposited to the credit of the General Fund, shall be  
91 credited to and become a part of the resources of said operating fund.  
92 Any balance of receipts above expenditures shall remain in said  
93 operating fund. Not later than sixty days after the close of each  
94 quarter, the Board of Regents for Higher Education shall submit to the  
95 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance  
96 of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies,  
97 the Office of Higher Education and the Office of Policy and  
98 Management a report on the actual expenditures of the Board of  
99 Regents for Higher Education for Charter Oak State College Operating  
100 Fund.

101 (g) The Board of Regents for Higher Education shall promote fund-  
102 raising to assist Charter Oak State College's programs pursuant to this  
103 section and shall report to the joint standing committee of the General  
104 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher education  
105 by January 1, 1994, and biennially thereafter, on such fund-raising.

106 (h) The Board of Regents for Higher Education shall waive the  
107 payment of course enrollment fees at Charter Oak State College for any  
108 active member of the Connecticut Army or Air National Guard who  
109 (1) has been certified by the Adjutant General or the Adjutant  
110 General's designee as a member in good standing of the guard, and (2)  
111 is enrolled or accepted for admission to Charter Oak State College on a  
112 full-time or part-time basis in a degree granting program. If any person  
113 who receives a course enrollment fee waiver in accordance with the

114 provisions of this subsection also receives educational reimbursement  
115 from an employer, such waiver shall be reduced by the amount of such  
116 educational reimbursement. Members of the National Guard described  
117 in this subsection shall be given the same status as students not  
118 receiving course enrollment fee waivers in registering for courses at  
119 Charter Oak State College.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	October 1, 2015	10a-143
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***Statement of Legislative Commissioners:***

Title was changed for accuracy and in section 1(h), the definition of domiciled in this state, was deleted for accuracy as the phrase "domiciled in this state" is not used in the bill.

**VA**      *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

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### **OFA Fiscal Note**

#### **State Impact:**

<b>Agency Affected</b>	<b>Fund-Effect</b>	<b>FY 16 \$</b>	<b>FY 17 \$</b>
Board of Regents for Higher Education	Tuition Fund - Revenue Loss	186,993	186,993
Board of Regents for Higher Education	GF - Cost	54,510	54,510

**Municipal Impact:** None

#### **Explanation**

The bill results in a revenue loss of \$186,993 and a cost of \$54,510 in FY 16 and FY 17 to Charter Oak State College. Charter Oak State College currently charges students \$263 per credit. Charter Oak instructors are paid \$230 per student taught. Unlike a traditional college or university where faculty are paid per course, there is no marginal capacity for Charter Oak to accept more students without incurring additional costs.

There are currently 4,740 National Guard members in Connecticut. Based on national higher education participation rates it is estimated that 5% or 237 guardsmen would take at least one course per year with Charter Oak State College. Each three credit course would result in a revenue loss of \$789 and a cost of \$230. The overall impact would be that stated above.

#### **The Out Years**

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of National Guard members attending Charter Oak State College, the number of courses

such guardsmen take, inflation and the per credit rate for taking a course.

**OLR Bill Analysis****sSB 532*****AN ACT WAIVING COURSE ENROLLMENT FEES AT CHARTER OAK STATE COLLEGE FOR MEMBERS OF THE CONNECTICUT NATIONAL GUARD.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill establishes a course enrollment fee waiver for National Guard members who attend Charter Oak State College. By law, UConn, the Connecticut State University system, and the regional community-technical colleges must waive tuition for National Guard members. (Charter Oak State College charges enrollment fees for classes instead of tuition.)

Specifically, the bill requires the Board of Regents for Higher Education (BOR) to waive course enrollment fees at Charter Oak State College for any active Connecticut Army or National Guard member who (1) has been certified by the adjutant general, or his designee, to be in good standing and (2) is enrolled or accepted for admission to the college in a degree granting program.

It also requires BOR (1) to reduce the waiver amount by the amount of any employer's educational reimbursement and (2) give National Guard members the same status as students who do not receive the waiver when registering for courses.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2015

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Veterans' Affairs Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 14      Nay 0      (03/05/2015)